

by the insertion of:

--RELATED APPLICATION:

This Application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/NL99/00791, filed December 21, 1999.--, which is, it is submitted, an appropriate amendment. A marked-up copy of the Specification of the invention is also submitted herewith for comparison purposes.

IN THE CLAIMS:

On page 7, immediately following the heading "CLAIMS", please insert: --Having disclosed my invention, what I claim as new and to be secured by Letters Patent in the United States of America is--.

Please cancel all claims except Claims 1 and 2 without prejudice.

Please rewrite Claims 1 and 2 as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended). A [feeding and/or drinking column] column for feeding or drinking or both for animals, [such as cows,] said column comprising a central axis surrounded by [several] a plurality of reservoirs, [(3)] and feeding troughs [(6)], as well as] at least one metering device [(5)] for dosing feed [and/]or drink or both from at least one of the reservoirs [(3)] to at least one of the feeding troughs [(6)], [characterized in that] the [feeding and/or drinking] column [is] being provided with a framework [(1) located] around the central axis, to which framework, [(1) primarily] the feeding troughs [(6)] and reservoirs [(3)] are fitted.

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Claim 2 (Amended). A [feeding and/or drinking] column [as claimed] in accordance with claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein a cross-section of the framework [(1)] perpendicular to the central axis is substantially circular.

Please add the following claims:

Claim ~~29~~³. A column in accordance with Claim 1 comprising partitions disposed between said feeding troughs, said partitions having such dimensions which are sufficient to prevent animals at adjoining feeding troughs from disturbing each other when using their corresponding troughs for eating or drinking.

Claim ~~30~~⁴. A column in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachably fitted to said framework.

Claim ~~31~~⁵. A column in accordance with Claim ~~30~~⁴ wherein said troughs and said reservoirs are detachable from said framework without a requirement that tools be used.

Claim ~~32~~⁶. A column in accordance with Claim ~~30~~⁴ wherein said partitions and said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim ~~33~~⁷. A column in accordance with Claim ~~29~~³ wherein said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim ~~34~~⁸. A column in accordance with Claim ~~29~~³ wherein said partitions and said feeding troughs are detachably connected to said framework and to each other.

Claim ~~35~~⁹. A column in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said feeding troughs each comprise a metering device which is connected

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to said framework.

Claim 36¹⁰. A column in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said reservoirs have similar configurations.

Claim 37¹¹. A column in accordance with Claim 1 which comprises a weighing device which is interconnected to said framework for weighing material delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim 38¹². A column in accordance with Claim 37¹¹ wherein said weighing device is movable about said central axis.

Claim 39¹³. A column in accordance with Claim 1 which comprises a metering device which is disposed between at least one of said reservoirs and at least one of said feeding troughs.

Claim 40¹⁴. A column in accordance with Claim 1 comprising at least one storage room and a metering device operatively associated therewith.

Claim 41¹⁵. A column in accordance with Claim 40¹⁴ wherein said metering device comprises mixing means for mixing materials present in said storage room.

Claim 42¹⁶. A column in accordance with Claim 40¹⁴ wherein said metering device is rotatable about said central axis.

Claim 43¹⁷. A column in accordance with Claim 42¹⁶ comprising a drive unit for moving said metering device about said central axis.

Claim 44¹⁸. A feeding column in accordance with Claim 1 comprising separation means for removing materials unfit for consumption by said animals from feed delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

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Claim ~~45~~¹⁹. A column in accordance with Claim ~~44~~¹⁸ wherein said separation means comprises at least one magnet.

Claim ~~46~~²⁰. A column in accordance with Claim ~~45~~¹⁹ wherein said magnet is an electromagnet.

Claim ~~47~~²¹. A column in accordance with Claim 1 comprising identification means for identifying individual animals, said identification means being operatively associated with each said feeding trough.

Claim ~~48~~²². A column in accordance with Claim 1 which is mobile.

Claim ~~49~~²³. A method of feeding animals which comprises the steps of arranging a plurality of feeding reservoirs to revolve about a vertical axis, arranging below said reservoirs a plurality of feeding troughs, arranging an identification means for identifying animals feeding said troughs said identification means controlling delivery means disposed between said reservoirs and said feeding troughs for selectively delivering a mixture of fodder from said reservoirs to said feeding troughs, said mixture of fodder corresponding to the nutrition needs of an animal feeding at a said feeding trough wherein said animal has been identified by said identification means.

Claim ~~50~~²⁴. A method in accordance with Claim ~~49~~²³ which comprising weighing fodder supplied by said reservoir means to a corresponding trough and apportioning the weight of fodder from selected reservoirs to correspond with the nutritive needs of an animal feeding at said feeding trough to which said materials are

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delivered.

Claim ~~51~~²⁵. A method in accordance with Claim ~~48~~²³ wherein during delivery of fodder into a feeding trough the amount of feed received from the selected reservoirs is metered to correspond to the nutritive needs of the individual animal feeding at such feeding trough.

Claim ~~52~~²⁶. A method in accordance with Claim ~~48~~²³ wherein said metering device comprises a weighing device in the feeding trough wherein the identified animal is feeding.

Claim ~~53~~²⁷. A method in accordance with Claim ~~52~~²⁶ wherein said weighing device determines the eating speed of the individual animal who is eating in said trough and said eating speed is stored in a computer memory.

Claim ~~54~~²⁸. A method in accordance with Claim ~~49~~²³ wherein the nutritive needs of individual animals are determined on the basis of data concerning such animal stored in a computer memory.

Claim ~~55~~²⁹. A method in accordance with Claim ~~49~~²³ comprising the further step of automatic removing fodder which has not been consumed by the individual animal from the feeding trough involved.

Claim ~~56~~³⁰. An apparatus for automatically feeding animals which comprises a circular framework disposed about a vertical axis which has on its upper aspect a storage house that contains a plurality of feeding reservoirs, a plurality of delivering means interconnected to framework disposed below said storage house, a plurality of vertical partitions extending radially from said framework, a plurality of feeding troughs disposed below said

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storage house and between individual partitions, said feeding troughs being arranged in a circle around said axis, said partitions extending sufficiently beyond said feeding troughs to provide individual stalls arranged in a circle around said axis for each feeding trough, animal identification means operatively associated with each said feeding trough, a computer memory connected to said animal identification means wherein the nutrition needs for each animal feeding at said feeding trough is stored in said memory, weighing means operatively associated with said feeding trough for determining the eating speed of an animal at each respective feeding trough, said reservoirs containing different feeds to provide fodder of different nutritional values, said reservoirs and said delivery means being controlled by said weighing means to deliver the amounts and types of fodder from said reservoirs to meet the nutrition needs of the animal at the feeding trough as identified by said identification means, each of said partitions, said troughs and said reservoirs respectively being substantially identical and being interconnected with said framework so that they are readily detachable therefrom.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

In lieu of the Abstract which appears on under the Title and in a column to the left of the drawing of the invention on the cover sheet of the Application submitted herewith, please substitute the Abstract of Disclosure appended hereto: